

REMARKS

Claims 14-19 are pending in this application. Claims 17-19 are allowed.

By this Amendment, claim 14 is amended. Claims 20-22 are canceled, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration because the amendments either clarify and amplify allowable features or cancel rejected claims; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to rejections raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Support for the amendment to claim 14 is found, for example, on page 4, lines 2-6, page 14, lines 11-14, and 23-26 of the Applicant's disclosure where a thin film is formed on the base wafer, and an oxide film is part of the thin film.

Further, as claims 14-16 are rejected only under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for allegedly being indefinite, and not over any art, it is respectfully submitted that with the above clarifying amendment to claim 14, claim 14 and its dependent claims 15 and 16 are all allowable. The clarifying amendment does not require more than nominal consideration. Entry of the amendment to claim 14 and allowance of claims 14-16 are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge the indication on page 2, item 1 of the Office Action that claims 17-19 are allowed.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Reply to Rejections

A. 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph Rejection

On page 2, item 2 of the Office Action, claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. Claim 14 is amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14-16 is respectfully requested.

B. 35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection

On page 2, item 4 of the Office Action, claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,265,328 over Henley et al. (hereinafter "Henley"). Cancellation of claim 20 renders the rejection moot.

C. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

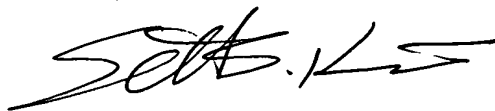
On page 3, item 7 of the Office Action, claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Henley. Cancellation of claims 21 and 22 renders the rejection moot.

II. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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